CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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How About a Victory Dinner?

Theatre Men Hail End of Bingo

Unrestrained bingo operations, forbidden by law, have reached "immense proportions" in the special circumstances which the war brought about and will now be curtailed, Ontario's Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell announced last week. Lotteries too

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Pix Maintained Army Morale

Canadian Army morale was maintained by the entertaining pictures sent by the industry to the Canadian Army Overseas, Lieutenant-General Charles Foulkes, chief of the general staff, declared in a letter to the War Activities Committee of the

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Hollywood Banquet Raises Question in Dominion

Presentation of plaques to the War Activities Committee and the Hollywood Victory Committee, both USA film industry war effort organizations, by Hon. L. B. Pearson, Canadian ambassador to the United States, has raised the question of victory dinners in Canada by every regional branch of the Motion Picture War Services Committee.

The plaques, symbolizing Canada's gratitude to Hollywood for its assistance during the period of hostilities, were presented before more than 300 of Hollywood's leading citizens at a dinner given by the National War

(Continued on Page 2)

Regal Signs with Exchange Union

Toronto Film Exchange Employees Union, Local B-73 of the IATSE has signed a collective agreement wtih Regal Film Corporation. The agreement, first of its kind in the local film exchange industry, provides for increased wages, maintenance of membership, grievance and arbitration procedure, seniority, two weeks' holiday with pay, and sick leave.

The union officials are conducting negotiations with a number of film exchanges in the city.

Elect Officers

Don Stapleton was elected president and Bob Martin of the Rexy, Ottawa, was elected secretary at a recent meeting of the eastern division of MPTAO.

Observe Odeon Anniversary

At a Christmas banquet which coincidentally celebrated the first anniversary of Odeon Theatres, in the Maritimes on an expanded scale, A. I. Garson, Maritimes manager of the chain, was host to representatives of the motion picture business and civic and

(Continued on Page 10)

High Honors to Spyros Skouras

Spyros P. Skouras president of Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation and head of Greek War Relief in the USA last week received the highest honor of his native land as a climax of triple public commendation.

The Gold Cross of Saviour was

(Continued on Page 2)

Rank, Pathe Close World Dist'n Deal

The J. Arthur Rank interests of Great Britain and those of Robert R. Young—Pathe Industries—have entered an Anglo-American distribution agreement for the world market which will apply to a program of 20 films, ten from each.

The films will be marketed throughout the world beginning September, 1946, under the "Eagle-Lion" trademark, the symbol of Rank's distribution organization. The Young interests, emphasizing that neither the program nor the personnel of PRC, which they own, will be affected, will form a new company to handle the films in the United States and Central and South America and its ownership will be vested in Pathe Industries. The name "Eagle Lion Films, Inc.," as it is used cur-

(Continued on Page 4)

Kershaw Resigns, Brown Now Prexy

Peter D. Brown, vice-president and general manager of General Theatre Supply Company, has been appointed president of the company, succeeding Frank H. Kershaw who came east to take over the position he has just resigned. The announcement was made by R. W. Bolstad, vice-president of Famous Players.

Kershaw will return to the west coast to enter business for himself.

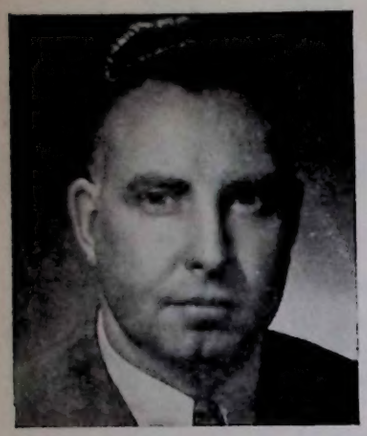
The promotion of Pete Brown to the presidency is in line with the company's policy of promotion from within the ranks of the organization. Brown has served in the company in a number of capacities since 1930.

J. J. (Jack) Fitzgibbons, Jr., has been associated with Frank Kershaw in the organization and development of Theatre Confec-

(Continued on Page 2)

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

The Daltons Ride Again in a rip-roaring film from Empire-Universal with ALAN CURTIS, LON CHANEY, KENT TAYLOR, NOAH BEERY, Jr. and MARTHA O'DRISCOLL. It's a BOXOFFICE special from EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL.



PETER D. BROWN

Vice-president and general manager of General Theatre Supply Company, who has been appointed president of the company, succeeding Frank H. Kershaw.

Kershaw Resigns, Brown Is Prexy

(Continued from Page 1)

tions Ltd., and has now been placed in charge of that company. Jack Fitzgibbons returned to the company recently after having served with the American Army in the South Pacific, where he was wounded and awarded several decorations.

Jules Wolfe, who has been actively associated with both these companies, has been elected vice-president of General Theatre Supply Company.

16 Mm. News to Be In Full Color

Planet News, the 16 mm. newsreel coverage of current events, will be shot in color in the future, according to Dick Lewis, Planet's short subjects editor. The operation will begin early this year. General Films distributes the product in Canada.

The Kodachrome reels will include spot news and human interest items as well as sports, scientific marvels, oddities, pageants, disasters, activities of prominent persons and comedy bits.

Professional cameramen stationed at key cities throughout the United States and Canada will become an integral part of the Planet News coverage system, the company using the discharged Signal Corps veterans and returning men with service motion picture unit experience.

All Planet's first-run narrow gauge features, cartoons, travelogs and short subjects are now being filmed in Kodachrome.

Why Not Victory Dinner Here?

(Continued from Page 1)

Finance Committee. Don Henshaw, a member of the committee who has acted as adviser during the shooting of several war loan shorts, was chairman.

In the absence of John J. Fitzgibbons, national chairman of the motion picture section of the National War Finance Committee and chairman of the Motion Picture War Services Committee, Henshaw represented the Canadian film and theatre industry.

The film, Pearson told the gathering, had "as much power as any single agency to heal the wounds of war and knit together the pieces of a shattered world." More than 600 people from Hollywood and New York had helped Canada's war effort. According to the ambassador, 50 stars had toured Canada during eight Victory Loan drives, 19 appeared in short subjects and 37 made radio transcriptions.

While Canadian film men, who worked hard during the war and provided more gratis help than any other industry, are glad to join in the general tribute to the motion picture industry, many feel that a Canadian celebration by Canadians who participated in the domestic effort is decidedly in order. A dinner could be held in the capital of each of Canada's six distribution areas, with the Provincial chairman of the Motion Picture War Services Committee presiding.

Stressing the value of these films to Canada, Pearson declared: "If it had been necessary to us to buy such films on a commercial basis, the work would, I am told, have been valued at about three million dollars. By the same token, if we had to meet the regular fees of the hundreds of people who have come to Canada from both New York and Hollywood to make personal appearances and to give radio broadcasts in connection with our campaigns, the amount required would have been in the neighborhood of five million dollars.

"Personally, I am more impressed by the spirit behind these figures than by the figures themselves. That spirit underlines the mutual aid I have talked about. You have helped us as if we were your own people."

Enlarging on the spirit of cooperation developed between Canada and the USA and their other allies, Pearson said that at one stage in the Italian campaign the Canadian Corps was in the middle of the line, joining British and US formations on either side of it. In many a foray over Europe young Canadians flew American planes as members of British squadrons.

"We have a common heritage in democratic ideals," the ambassador said. "We have a common language, common social customs, and in general a common culture.

"We give you musicians, writers, actors. We give them to you freely, but we don't really lose them. We get them back, glorified and glamorized, because your radio, your newspapers and periodicals, your films permeate to practically every corner of Canada. We know all about the Rose Bowls and Pat Hurley. With us it is a case of 'Escape you never.'

"No better illustration of the general and constant commerce between our two countries can be found than that provided by your own domestic market. There is no quota for American films shown in Canada. Every theatre in Canada shows them and the documentaries of our own government-sponsored National Film Board are widely shown in your country."

The plaques which Pearson presented to E. J. Mannix, vice-president of the War Activities Committee, and Kenneth Thomson, chairman of the Hollywood Victory Committee, bore the great seal of Canada and the coats-of-arms of the nine provinces. They were made of Canadian maple used for the outer skin of Mosquito bombers.

The dinner was novel even for Hollywood and consisted mostly of typically Canadian foods of the non-rationed variety, shipped from the Dominion by private citizens. They included east coast oysters mignonette, soupe au pois Quebecois, fillet of Nova Scotia sole with lobster sauce, olivette potatoes persilles, Manitoba buffalo steak and British Columbia sherbet.

Among the screen stars who attended were Sir C. Aubrey Smith, Canadian-born Walter Pidgeon, Greer Garson, Jack Carson, Charles Ruggles, James Cagney and Mrs. Cagney, Pat O'Brien, Gene Kelly, Adolphe Menjou, Alan Mowbray, Vivian Blane, Margaret O'Brien, Jeanne Crain, Sonny Tufts, Claire Trevor, Linda Darnell, Gail Patrick, Shirley Temple, Herbert Marshall, Edward Arnold, Dick Powell, Alexander Knox of London, Ontario, Faye Marlow, Cary Grant, Jimmy McHugh and numerous others.

High Honors to Spyros Skouras

(Continued from Page 1)

bestowed upon him by Greece upon the recommendation of Minister of Foreign Affairs John Soflanopoulos in recognition of his services as an American citizen to the land of his birth.

Canadians of Greek origin who were prominent in relief work for that country under the leadership of Mr. Skouras are George Ganetakos, president of United Amusements, Montreal, and B. C. Salamis, well-known Quebec exhibitor.

Earlier in the week the Fox chief, through R. G. DeVoe, commanding general of Halloran General Hospital, was awarded the Second Service Command "Certificate of Commendation" for "all you have done to make the road to recovery easier for the soldier-patients of this command."

At the annual Christmas party given by Mr. Skouras for the employees of the company 1,500 stood as Tom Conners, vice-president in charge of distribution, presented him with a star sapphire ring and a book containing the signatures of all in "grateful recognition of his honest and humane services to his associates and fellow employees."

Industry Takes Over OWI Newsreel

A privately financed United Newsreel has superseded the US government's subsidized wartime newsreel for foreign countries. Papers have been filed in Albany for the incorporation of United Newsreel Company Inc., with Eric Johnston as president. This was done after the decision of the heads of the five existing newsreel companies to cooperate in supplanting the government set-up with industry's own undertaking.

All five American reels supply negatives of their current releases to the United Newsreel Company. From this wealth of material a full reel is selected, cut, titled and edited to attract maximum attention abroad. Skilled translators prepare commentaries for recording on foreign language sound tracks. Current plans include sound tracks in Chinese, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Turkish, Greek and Romanian.

Choquette Buys Ninth House

Leo Choquette has acquired the 300-seat Alhambra Theatre, at Ste. Agathe des Monts, Quebec, from L. Pare. Choquette's circuit comprises nine theatres.

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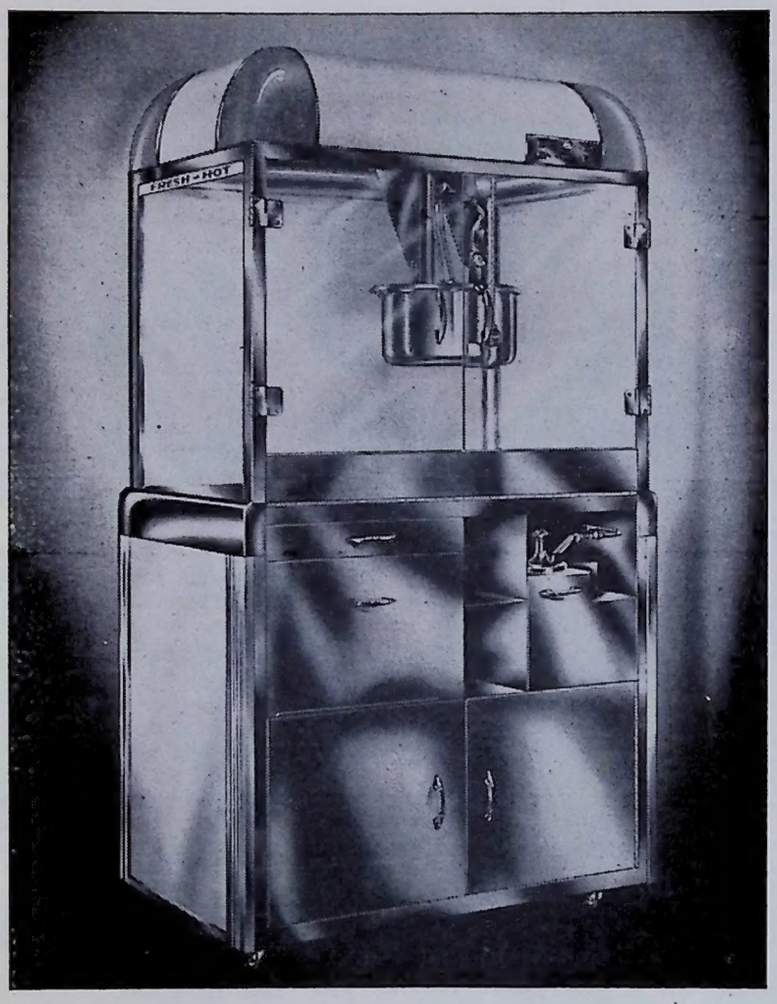

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DISTRIBUTORS FROM COAST TO COAST

Rank, Pathe in World Setup

(Continued from Page 1)

rently in the USA by Rank, will be changed to "Eagle Lion Films."

The deal is the second one for Rank with an American company in the last few weeks. The first involved Rank, Universal and International and calls for eight films each from Rank and International for world distribution through a new company, United World. They will be produced with Universal facilities.

Possible effect of both deals on the Canadian distribution scene is interesting film and theatre men. In the case of the International-Rank deal it was stated that a separate sales staff would operate through either Eagle Lion or Universal facilities, preference to be dictated by suitability. Both Universal and Eagle Lion are part of the Nathanson interests in Canada. No official statement has been made which designates either as the distributing agent — or whether United World will be set up in Canada.

According to the official announcement of the Young-Rank deal, which was issued jointly, "Distribution in the British Isles and throughout the rest of the world will be handled by the present Rank organization." Eagle Lion in Canada, said to be a partnership of Paul Nathanson and Rank, would seem to be the logical outlet for the films, judging by the announcement.

Following news of the agreement it was made public that Pathe Industries, Inc. has merged two large financial organizations with its general structure, which includes theatre and real estate holdings. Officers elected at a recent meeting were R. W. Purcell, chairman of the board; Kenneth M. Young, president; J. J. Anzalone, vice-president; C. W. Sharp, treasurer; and M. M. Malone, secretary.

The Young interests have been making a strong drive during the last year for the acquisition of the franchises and exchanges held independently. Several still remain outside the company, among them the PRC franchise in Canada, which is controlled by Harry Allen, N. A. Taylor and associates, with Allen as president and general manager and David Griesdorf vice-president and general sales manager. The Canadian group holds several other franchises and, as far as is known, intends to keep its ownership in the Dominion.

With reference to the United World and Young agreements, Rank issued a statement saying that "We have now attained that prominence of distribution which the British film industry has lacked since its very inception."

The interchange of talent and ideas for the first time in motion picture history, he said, would result in both better films and better understanding between nations. The British were determined that each new film should be more acceptable as general entertainment, Rank stated.

SPYROS P. SKOURAS
Last week he received the highest honor of Greece, the Gold Cross of Saviour, for his work in behalf of that country.

John Allen, Thorold, Made MPTAO Dir'tor

A meeting of the board of directors of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario recently elected John Allen, Tivoli Theatre, Thorold, to the board to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Ed Warren, Aurora.

Reporter Named to BC Censor Board

Albert Williamson, Vancouver News-Herald reporter, has been named to the British Columbia Motion Picture Censorship Appeal Board, Attorney-General R. L. Maitland announced recently. Williamson succeeds the late A. A. Ross.

Other members of the board are Robert McKee and Mrs. Thomas Bingham, both of Vancouver.

At Oscar Hanson's Christmas Party

Pictures on Page 5 ⟶

IT is almost a tradition in film business as it exists hereabouts that nowhere is there more fun than at a party given by Oscar Hanson, such gaiety being whipped up, kept up and shared by Oscar with his business family and friends.

The Hanson Christmas party at Charlie Mavety's Circle M Ranch at Kleinburg was a royal romp from start to finish, one of its highlights being the "art gallery" in the recreation room. The pictures that formed it were projected later in the main lodge and accompanied by laughs and hoots. Between scenes there was community singing and later dancing.

The dinner, over which the Hon. J. Earl Lawson presided wittily, was full of surprises as guests were presented with thorny problems of personal life and asked to solve them publicly and immediately. All of them were answered in a fashion which brought gleeful responses.

Oscar Hanson didn't sit at his own head table but took it all in from a seat in the rear, having his sentimental say when the time came and joining lustily in everything but the speechmaking.

On the next page are pictures and subjects of the "art gallery" and other scenes. The people are from left to right:

(1) Big Chief Harry O'Neil of the Royal Bank admires his other figure as Charlie Mavety gives out with a war whoop—or was it a wolf howl? Charlie, who loves a party, had reason to be happy, for his beloved steeds won almost all the prizes at the recent Oakville horse show. That leads to a story. Mavety has a lump under one eye. "How did you get it?" people ask. "In a fight," he answers. But none will believe him. He did. He took on three bad losers who picked on our good-natured friend and there isn't one of them who won't be sorry for a long time.

(2) "Maybe I should censor me," thinks Censor O. J. Silverthorne.

(3) Oscar Hanson, our host, is impressed with a more shapely version of himself.

(4) Gordon Harkness greets his photographic counterpart, who is greeting, it would seem, Gordon Harkness.

(5) Ed Morey, Monogram head office, New York, was one of the guests. It was his first visit to this part of Canada and he proved himself easy to listen to and easy to like.

(6) It looks as though Frank O'Byrne of IS Productions and Jack Arthur of Famous Players just don't believe what Ben Cronk of Empire-Universal is telling them.

(7) Harkness, Hanson, O'Neil, Mavety and Cronk. Looks as though Harkness and O'Neil are ready to nail some hides.

(8) Dick Main, the undeacon-like Deacon from Theatre Amusements; Stu Fleming, St. Kitt's; and Alf Perry, Empire-Universal chief.

(9) Some of the Hanson staff are taken for a ride by Mavety. Under the tam-o'-shanter is Dave Ongley of Lawson, Stratton, Green, Ongley and all points west.

(10) Hanson; Cecil Snyder, deputy attorney-general of Ontario; and Mavety.

(11) Part of the general scene.

(12) Archie Laurie, Monogram sales manager in Canada; Ed Morey; and Hye Bossin of Canadian Film Weekly.

(13) Earl Lawson, a scholar, a gentleman and a good judge of a fitting phrase, is trying to think of one to discribe his hybrid equivalent.

(14) John Fitzgibbons, co-conductor of MacNamara's Band with Charlie Mavety, is seeing himself as others saw him on the gallery wall.

(15) Ray Lewis studying the hit picture of the program and apparently pondering the parts shortage.

(16) Alf Perry trying to remember how long it is since he shaped up like his photo.

(17) Rube Bolstad might be thinking that he never looked better in his life.

Hillcrest Theatre Decorated, Reopens

The Hillcrest Theatre, Toronto, which has been closed for alterations, reopened last week completely redecorated and with a new screen, new curtain and seat covers. Controller Stewart Smith officiated at the opening ceremonies. The 428-seat house is operated by Saul Firestone and Nick Dotsch.

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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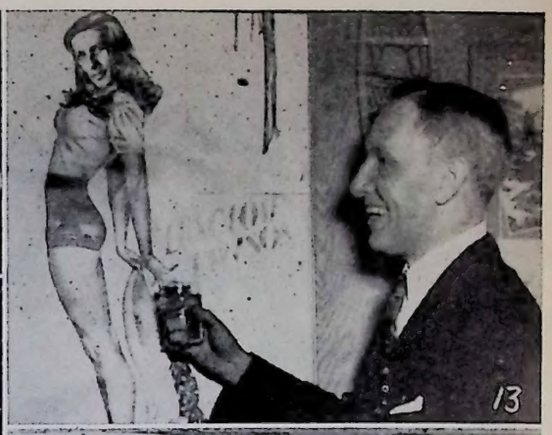

—Photos by Alexandra Studios

Pix Maintained Army Morale

(Continued from Page 1)

Motion Picture Industry, expressing the thanks and gratitude of Canada. The overseas army has been receiving the films since September 1944.

"These films and others," General Foulkes's letter says, "made available by the motion picture industry have been the most important morale-building mediums utilized by the Canadian Armed Forces. The success of this important phase of the joint war effort would not have been possible without the generosity and cooperation of the motion picture industry.

"Would you, therefore, please transmit to the members of your committee the appreciation of the Departmen of National Defense for the ever-present cooperation and effective collaboration which resulted in the provision of the best possible film service."

Replying, G. J. Schaefer of WAC, expressed the committee's appreciation for Lieut.-General Foulkes's tribute to the industry.

"We in the industry," Schaefer declared, "are fully conscious that whatever we did was only what should have been required and demanded of all civilians."

DECEMBER

GUILTY MEN

It Was a Merry Christmas

I've been through so many Christmas parties that I burp every time I breathe in. Never, everyone agrees, have they ever been as large and as joyous.

The Odeon and Famous Players parties each provided an excellent time, while those of Oscar Hanson, Premier, Columbia, PRC, United Artists, 20th Century Theatres and Paramount were grand.

At the Famous Players party prexy Fitzgibbons announced that no one had to report for work the next day until 11 a.m. and Harrison Patte and some others didn't hear him. They got in at nine and their hearts were broken when they heard the news.

Ed Morey, Monogram exec from New York, was at the FPCC foodfest and shindig, and so was ASN's Bill Singleton from Montreal. Notably absent were the speeches and the head table, a gesture hailed by all.

Taking in things Canadian was Jeff Sullivan of Loew's Boston office, who gabbed with the lads at the UA party after being intro'd by Stan Gosnell of Loew's Uptown.

After-midnight theatre parties were much fun, the Toronto FPCC suburbanites romping on stage and off at George Morrell's Runnymede under the emceeing of the Tivoli's Len Bishop, whose own funning made him the poor man's Bob Hope. The food there was really something.

The Imperial boys and girls also had much fun, with lucky and unlucky draws, the men winning ladies' prizes and vice-versa.

The Casino staff held a wow of party, chorines stomping with staff lads and trombonist Jack Katz hopping about with Mrs. Haley, the wardrobe mistress. Leading the fun was maestro Lou Appleby. Murray Little didn't sit down until dawn, he being busy seeing that every one was stuffed with stuffed turkey and a variety of choice foods.

I would like to write more about what went on in the Toronto show and film picture this Yuletide but I'm just not in condition.

* * *

Heard Hereabouts

Frank Kavanaugh did that swell ad for Twinex on the back cover of our Xmas issue . . . Many requests have come in from non-subscribers for copies of the Christmas number because af the Jack Arthur story and if, by some chance or reason, any of you desire another copy, you'd better hurry . . . Thanks to Ernest Ouimet for that Varga calendar for Xmas . . . The neighbors gave Milt Kahn a farewell gift when the left the King's Playhouse, College street, Toronto . . . Got a card from Syd Taube's boy, Erwin of the RCAF, still in UK . . . Thanks to all of you for those lovely Christmas cards . . . The Tribell boys and girls have their annual show coming to the Victory soon under the direction of Joe Fox and again Allen Kahn of Regal will be glad to look after your ticket needs . . . Ben Cronk's Christmas card bore a color reproduction of one of his own fine paintings called "The Lesson of Canada." It shows two Dutch peasants instructing a child and quite a few filmites are having it framed as a miniature. The Dutch theme is no mere fancy for Ben is of that extraction, his ancestors having landed around Mayflower time . . . Charlie Cashman was reelected to York Township Council by acclamation. That's eight out of 11 terms that way . . . Bill Weiss, allied co-op head, will meet with Indies in the Ottawa area on January 7th at the Chateau Laurier.

* * *

Reasonable Query

Len Bishop of the Tivoli tells the gag about the stew sitting on a curb and gazing blearily at the road. A pigeon landed a few feet from him.

As it wadddled by the stew spoke to it. "Hey." he mumbled. "Any messages?"

Theatre Men Hail End of Bingo

(Continued from Page 1)

are to be brought under control.

In many places bingo games almost nightly worked to the detriment of theatres, since they provided an unfair competition for patrons. Theatre managers point out that they provide a theatre which must meet safety and other standards. Bingo often was operated in halls which obeyed no safety regulations and had become in very many instances a flourishing racket.

While the new ruling from the attorney-general's department does not prohibit bingos entirely, they may be held in future "only occasionally" and only for religious purposes. Even then they may be operated only with the consent of local authorities.

"This means," one official said, "that, while churches and charitable organizations may hold bingos once in a while, they will no longer be permitted to advertise 'Bingo Every Tuesday' as so many do."

The attorney-general has ordered that complaints against any one promoting an illegal bingo, raffle or lottery "or against newspapers and other publications for carrying advertising or publicity referring to such illegal schemes" will be referred to local law enforcement authorities for action.

All raffles and lotteries, except for charity, are forbidden and articles raffled for charity must not exceed $50 in value and must be offered for sale first. Fear that lotteries, encouraged and extended during the war with the bingo craze, had fallen into the hands of professional operators whose "expenses" ran to as much as 30 to 60 per cent of the receipts, prompted the action by the attorney-general.

Hint New Theatre To Go Up in Halifax

Sale of a 125-foot strip of Halifax city-owned property to barrister Nathan Green for an undisclosed client has raised rumors that Malcolm Walker, manager of the Gaiety Theatre, had acquired the property to build a theatre. Walker would neither confirm nor deny the report.

Fire Razes Theatre At Stony Mountain

Overheated stove pipes set fire to the Oak Theatre, Stony Mountain, Man., recently, burning the building to the ground at a loss of $10,000. The loss is partly covered by insurance, E. R. R. Mills, owner and operator of the theatre, declared. Adjoining buildings were slightly damaged.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 11, No. 1 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

Too Young To Know

with Joan Leslie, Robert Hutton
Warner Bros. 86 Mins.

FAIR ENTERTAINMENT IS PROVIDED BY FILM OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO FEMME PATRONS.

More obvious than it need be, "Too Young to Know" relates a well-worn story that may easily redeem itself with women audiences. Beyond the physical allure exercised by such charmers as Joan Leslie and Dolores Moran, there isn't too much to hold the interest of the men. The picture is made strictly of the stuff that strikes a response in feminine hearts, dealing as it does with the marital tribulations of a boy and girl hitched when they were too young to know what it was all about.

Injected into the plot in a deliberate bid for the women's tears is a search for the couple's child given by the mother for adoption after the bust-up of the marriage. The father, Robert Hutton, an officer, doesn't even know he's a father until Miss Moran, an entertainer once a pal of his ex-wife, (Miss Leslie) spills the news to him in a chance meeting in India, where he is stationed with the Air Force. Immediately Hutton grabs himself a leave so he can get back to Hollywood and locate his son. In a series of sequences smacking of artificiality he comes into custody of his youngster and becomes reconciled with Miss Leslie for a happy ending. Much of the action is concerned with a succession of spats between husband and wife, the latter's attachment for a group of scatterbrained and irresponsible pals being at the bottom of the misunderstanding between the two.

The film, produced without distinction by William Jacobs, has commonplace direction by Frederick de Cordova, who had at his disposal a script by Jo Pagano marked by little inspiration.

Miss Leslie and Hutton bring a youthful appeal to their performances. Their support is adequate for the most part.

CAST: Joan Leslie, Robert Hutton, Dolores Moran, Harry Davenport, Rosemary DeCamp, Barbara Brown, Robert Lowell, Arthur Shields, Craig Stevens, Don McGuire, Dick Erdman, Robert Arthur, Johnny Miles.

CREDITS: Producer, William Jacobs; Director, Frederick de Cordova; Screenplay, Jo Pagano; Based on story by Harlan Ware; Cameraman, Carl Guthrie; Art Director, Stanley Fleischer; Film Editor, Folmer Blangsted; Sound, Everett A. Brown; Set Decorator, Walter F. Tilford.

DIRECTION, Routine. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Mexicana

with Tito Guizar, Constance Moore
Republic 83 Mins.

MUSICAL CONTENT OF THIS LIGHT-HEARTED SHOW WILL WIN FAVOR OF AVERAGE FAN.

A vibrant musical that finds its inspiration in Latin-American rhythms, "Mexicana" is an opulent production appealing strongly to the senses. Brimming over with life and gayety, the picture has been done in a spirit of joy that will lift the average fan out of himself into a realm of pleasant make-believe.

The film will win audiences primarily on the strength of its musical attributes, being especially a treat for those who cannot resist the strains of music from our neighbors to the South. Producer Alfred Santell has been wise in giving the music first place over the story content. In truth, the story is no more than an excuse for the presentation of a long string of musical numbers staged more than well by Nick Castle. Among the compositions delighting the ears are "De Corazon a Corabon," "Mexicana," "Somewhere There's a Rainbow," "Heartless," "Time Out for Dreaming," "See Mexico," "Lupita," "Besame Mucho," "Rancho Grande," and a "Guadalajara" medley.

The story, the least of the film's assets, is far from fresh or convincing. It tells of a Mexican Frank Sinatra (Tito Guizar) who, in an effort to avoid the fanatic attentions of his worshippers, induces a singing star from the States (Constance Moore) to pose as his wife. The complications are unlimited and on the comic side. The audience knows from the start of the deception that in time love will blossom between boy and girl.

The lively direction of Santell keeps the cast very much on its toes. Guizar is best when singing. Miss Moore raises her voice in a couple of numbers. As a Mexican bombshell in the way of Guizar and Miss Moore, Estelita Rodriguez is fiery enough but hardly a sensation. Leo Carrillo stands out among the others.

CAST: Tito Guizar, Constance Moore, Leo Carrillo, Estelita Rodriguez, Howard Freeman, Steven Geray, Jean Stevens, St. Luke's Choristers, Peter Meremblum Junior Orchestra.

CREDITS: Producer, Alfred Santell; Director, Alfred Santell; Screenplay, Frank Gill, Jr.; Cameraman, Jack Marta; Musical Director, Walter Scharf; Music, Gabriel Ruiz; Lyrics, Ned Washington; Film Editor, Arthur Roberts; Sound, Ed Borschell, Howard Wilson; Art Directors, Russell Kimball, James Sullivan.

DIRECTION, Routine. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

The Stork Club

with Betty Hutton, Barry Fitzgerald, Don DeFore
Paramount 98 Mins.

MUSIC, COMEDY AND ROMANCE COMBINED MOST SUCCESSFULLY IN SWELL BOXOFFICE PIC.

B. G. DeSylva's latest production is entertainment that will make film audiences supremely happy. The production, sparklingly produced by DeSylva with the assistance of Harold Wilson, leaves out nothing calculated to give the film boxoffice standing. Those three elements so essential to the success of a film of this sort—comedy, music and romance—have been combined in a manner that will draw praise.

With those splendid troupers, Betty Hutton and Barry Fitzgerald, heading the cast, "The Stork Club" cannot fail to prove anything less than grand fun, staged with unusual competence by Director Hal Walker and decked out in all the finery at Paramount's command.

DeSylva and John McGowan have knocked together a screenplay that enables Miss Hutton, Fitzgerald and their fellow players to display their talents to the full. The two have guaged the popular taste to perfection, making the Stork Club the peg for a story rich in human values as well as in the more obvious trappings of musical entertainment.

The highly amusing story tells of what happens when Fitzgerald, a rich old Irishman, instructs his lawyer, Robert Benchley, to make some of his resources anonymously available to Miss Hutton, Stork Club hat-check gal, as a reward for her having saved him from drowning. Most of the fun results from Miss Hutton's efforts to find out who her fairy godfather is. Her sudden rise in the world arouses the suspicion of her boy friend, Don DeFore, and for a while the romance is on the verge of going on the rocks.

The acting is to be commended highly. Miss Hutton sings and acts explosively. Fitzgerald steals the show time and again. DeFore plays the boy friend earnestly. Robert Benchley, Bill Goodwin (as Sherman Billingsley, Stork Club host) and Iris Adrian contribute good support. The picture introduces Crooner Andy Russell.

CAST: Betty Hutton, Barry Fitzgerald, Don DeFore, Andy Russell, Robert Benchley, Bill Goodwin, Iris Adrian.

CREDITS: Producer, B. G. DeSylva; Associate Producer, Harold Wilson; Director, Hal Walker.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

Confidential Agent

with Charles Boyer, Lauren Bacall
Warner Bros. 118 Mins.

BACALL-BOYER TEAMED EFFECTIVELY IN SUSPENSEFUL DRAMA WHICH HAS ROBUST ACTION.

This melodrama, stemming from the novel of Graham Greene, will derive its drawing power primarily from the interest created by the teaming of Charles Boyer and Lauren Bacall. The linking of Boyer, darling of the ladies, and Miss Bacall, a lure for the men, was a smart move—one that provides the exhibitor with his chief justification for booking the production.

The film, to which the direction of Herman Shumlin has brought considerable suspense, has some robust action and a lot of devious turns and twists that keep the audience in a guessing mood.

The intelligent filmgoer, however, cannot escape the feeling that the film, which is much too long for what it is, makes a big to-do over a matter of none too great an interest. Bearing on the Spanish Civil war, the film deals with events that carry little weight at the boxoffice today. Yet, for all this, it is doubtful that the melodrama addict will be much influenced adversely.

Boyer has the role of an agent for the Spanish Republican forces who slips into England, entrusted with the mission of acquiring coal from Miss Bacall's father to permit his side to keep pressing its fight against the fascists. Miss Bacall's pop, a British coal baron, signs a deal with Boyer's enemies but cancels it at the last moment. The Spanish agent patiently takes a cuffing from the villains, but at the end he stands triumphant. At the finale we see him headed for home with Miss Bacall, convert to his cause, who has taken the place in his heart once held by his wife, cruelly killed by his enemies.

Boyer brings deep sincerity to his acting. Miss Bacall fails to repeat the sensation she created in "To Have and Have Not." Katina Paxinou as a villainess, Peter Lorre and Wanda Hendrix as a young drudge who assists Boyer must be credited with some of the best acting in the film.

CAST: Charles Boyer, Lauren Bacall, Victor Francen, Wanda Hendrix, George Coulouris, Peter Lorre, Katina Paxinou, John Warburton, Holmes Herbert.

CREDITS: Producer, Robert Buckner; Director, Herman Shumlin; Screenplay, Robert Buckner; Based on novel by Graham Greene; Cameraman, James Wong Howe.

DIRECTION, Okay. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

M·G·M SAYS HAPPY NEW YEAR WITH A LOT OF BIG ONES

"THE SAILOR TAKES A WIFE"

"ADVENTURE"

"THE HARVEY GIRLS" TECHNICOLOR

"TWO SISTERS FROM BOSTON"

While "THEY WERE EXPENDABLE"—"WHAT NEXT, CORPORAL HARGROVE?" and other current entertainments are delighting the fans, here are just a few M-G-M BIG ONES coming:

- **"THE HARVEY GIRLS"** (Technicolor)
  Judy Garland, John Hodiak
- **"ADVENTURE"**
  Clark Gable, Greer Garson
- **"THE SAILOR TAKES A WIFE"**
  Robert Walker, June Allyson
- **"ZIEGFELD FOLLIES"** (Technicolor)
  All-Star
- **"THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE"**
  Lana Turner, John Garfield
- **"EASY TO WED"** (Technicolor)
  Van Johnson, Esther Williams, Lucille Ball, Keenan Wynn
- **"TWO SISTERS FROM BOSTON"**
  Kathryn Grayson, June Allyson, Lauritz Melchior, Jimmy Durante
- **"THE YEARLING"** (Technicolor)
  Gregory Peck
- **"HOLIDAY IN MEXICO"** (Technicolor)
  Walter Pidgeon, Jose Iturbi, Jane Powell
  Roddy MacDowall, Ilona Massey, Xavier Cugat

"ZIEGFELD FOLLIES"
TECHNICOLOR
"THE POSTMAN ALWAYS RINGS TWICE"
"EASY TO WED"
TECHNICOLOR
METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER
STUDIOS
"HOLIDAY IN MEXICO"
TECHNICOLOR
"THE YEARLING"
TECHNICOLOR

Observe Odeon Anniversary

(Continued from Page 1)

business groups at the Admiral Beatty Hotel, Saint John, NB.

In welcoming the guests, Chairman Garson outlined the coming of the Odeon theatres to the Maritimes a year ago and the progress which had been made in that time. He stressed that the products of the motion picture industry depend on the tastes of the public although these pictures have a tremendous influence on the lives of countless numbers of people.

Responding, Hon. C. H. Blakeny, minister of education and federal and municipal affairs, declared that vast opportunities in the field of education and culture were presented by the film industry. In a way, he said, "the Province of New Brunswick is itself going into the movie industry" with a program which would take the advantages of the screen to remote rural districts deprived of advantages.

During the last year constructive films were exhibited to 400,000 persons in schools and halls in the province, many of whom had never before had the opportunity to see motion pictures. The motion picture possesses a key to the solution for the problems of the world because through this medium races, classes and creeds might come to an understanding of one another and learn to live a happy existence together, he said.

Pat J. Hogan, St. John manager for Paramount, proposed a toast to the censor board, praising its common sense and cooperative attitude, making it one of the best in the Dominion.

Replying, F. C. Owens, chairman of the board, said that all theatres in the province had been made absolutely safe from fire hazard, through remodelling where necessary, in accordance with the fire marshall's instructions. The motion picture industry was a help to the community, he said, and important for the welfare and progress of the public.

F. G. Spencer, head of the F. G. Spencer circuit, a Famous Players affiliate, toasted the industry and described its rapid growth in the 50 years of its existence.

In reply, Reg Marsh, St. John manager for 20th Century-Fox, sketched the vastness of the industry and its importance during the recent war as a morale-builder and propaganda agent. He mentioned the great number of films shown to service personnel at low cost or free — as great a number as those shown in public movie houses during the period.

A toast to the press was proposed by Jack Levine.

Present Plaques at Victory Dinner

Canadian thanks to the motion picture industry for its wartime assistance to the Dominion was expressed in these two plaques, presented at a dinner in the movie capital. Canadian Ambassador to Washington L. B. Pearson (left) presents them to E. J. Mannix, vice-president of the War Activities Committee and Kenneth Thompson, chairman of the Hollywood Victory Committee.

Show On After Fire Put Out

A few firm but casual remarks by the manager of the Royal Theatre, Moosejaw, Sask., prevented panic among the patrons recently when fire broke out in the theatre during the performance.

The patrons slowly filed out the south end of the theatre while firemen quickly entered by the north doors to extinguish easily a small blaze which had broken out in the ceiling near the men's rest rooms. Faulty electrical wiring is believed to have started the fire.

The damage was slight and the show continued after the fire was extinguished.

Clubs Defeat Move To Bar Moppets

A resolution barring children under 14 from attending movies was defeated by two Peterborough, Ontario, organizations recently. Sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of St. Luke's Church, the motion was rejected by the Business and Professional Women's Club, who suggested theatre managers be approached to present children's movie fare for weekends, and defeated by the Home and School Council.

B & F Managers Choose Officers

Election of officers to the B & F Managers' Associations held recently in Toronto saw Leo Bloom, Century, become president; Bill Collins, Belleville, treasurer; Dorothy St. Edwards, York, secretary; Art Magee, Oxford, publicity; C. Ingram, Parliament, director; G. Hall, relief manager, director.

Paramount Signs Gilbert Seldes

Critic-writer Gilbert Seldes of Columbia Broadcasting Company and Esquire magazine has been signed to write for Paramount. Long associated with the theatre and motion pictures, Seldes is also well known as a radio-television producer, having produced, written or directed well over 1,000 programs for CBS.

Responsible for much of the network's expansion and innovations, Seldes has had an eight-year association with CBS, bringing to the air such outstanding dramatic series as "Americans All" which won the radio Oscar in 1937. He edited and wrote the narration for the seven-reel film "This is America," and authored several books, among them "The Movies and the Talkies," "The Movies Came to America," and "The Seven Lively Arts."

Claim Two Firms Delaying Tele

Commercial development of an important technical advance in television was being deliberately retarded by an arrangement between two major companies which divided the world into two non-competitive areas, it was charged by the USA Department of Justice in Federal Court, New York.

Scophony inventions, it was alleged, involved the use of an outside source of light similar to that used in projection of motion pictures, which makes it possible to enlarge the image greatly beyond that now in use. The progress of this towards public use "has been postponed and has been unnecessarily delayed," said Joseph Borkin, Department of Justice lawyer.

The companies charged were British and American. One, Television Productions, Inc., is owned wholly by Paramount, stated the complaint, and, at that company's direction, had made no effort to develop or exploit the use of its products as part of the "conspiracy" against competition and for monopoly. This failure to act showed that it was being operated "at the direction, for the benefit and on behalf of its parent company, Paramount."

General Precision Equipment Corporation, which, with Television Productions, is described as conspiring for "complete control over the promotion, utilization or suppression" of Scophony inventions in the Western Hemisphere, "controls Scophony in the USA and is the largest single stockholder in Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation."

The complete list of defendants named are: Paramount; Television Productions Inc., and its president, Paul Raibourne; General Precision Equipment Corporation and its president, Earle G. Hines; Scophony Corporation of America and its president, Arthur Levey, and Scophony Ltd., a British concern which took out the basic patents in 1937 and 1939.

Levey said in a statement that he had "the greatest respect" for the attorney-general's judgment and welcomed "his action to clarify the issue."

CAPAC Awards

Winners of five $100 awards for serious musical compositions awarded by CAPAC are Jean Coulthard Adams, Vancouver; Minuetta Borek, Calgary; Alexander Brott, Montreal; F. L. Harrison, Kingston; Oskar Morawetz, Toronto. Sir Ernest MacMillan was chairman of the board of judges.

MPs Query Film Board Policy

Party Ranks Are Split as Members Discuss Million-Dollar Budget for 1946

Discussion of the future policy of the National Film Board in the House of Commons a day or so before prorogation saw members of all parties breaking party ranks to praise or criticize the workings of the Dominion film agency. The occasion was the passing on the estimates for NFB of $810,965 with a supplementary grant of $335,000.

Progressive-Conservative J. R. MacNicol (Toronto Davenport) initiated the debate when he praised NFB work, particularly films which educated Canadians at home about their country and told Canada's story abroad. He asked that the Minister of Public Works erect a new, fireproof building to "preserve these priceless films that have been taken of Canada from one end to the other."

Rodney Adamson, also a Progressive-Conservative, frequently critical of the board, demanded a statement on policy, requesting information whether the board was going to produce major films as well as documentaries, whether they would in any event cooperate with commercial studios or compete with private producers of films.

Was the expenditure of over a million dollars a year by the people of Canada for government-made films merited? D. King Hazen wanted to know. Does the Film Board play an important part in the lives of the people or in the lives of the members of parliament? he asked.

"So far as I know," he said, "it plays no part, or if it does it plays only a small part, in the lives of the people of my constituency. I doubt if the government can carry on a film business any more than it can carry on a weekly newspaper. I suggest therefore that the whole matter should be very carefully looked into before further expenditures are made."

He said he had heard that the Film Board had made a film for the RCAF at a cost of $20,000 which the air force had had to pay for but which had to be remade at a commercial studio.

Minister of National Health and Welfare Brooke Claxton, under whose department the board is administered, declared that "no agency of the Canadian government has done so much to spread knowledge of Canada abroad as the Film Board. In the year under review it produced a total of 308 films . . . and I would ask any member to compare that production, from the point of view both of quality and quantity, with the production of any other country on the face of the earth.

"The National Film Board has come to have a reputation abroad which puts us virtually second to none in the documentary field."

Claxton told of seeing Canadian films at every international conference he had attended. UNRRA had engaged NFB to make a film about its work and this film had been shown all over the world.

The 308 films produced last year consisted of 46 films in the NFB program, 153 in the war information program, 109 for other governmental agencies. The "World in Action" series shows in 6,000 theatres in the United States, and a great number in the United Kingdom, in Central and South America as well as Australia and South Africa. "Canada Carries On" is seen by over two million people in Canada every month. Films are produced in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

Revenue from films for 1944-45 showings was $72,088.57. Increases in the budget this year are: $127,000 for rural distribution; $110,000 for equipment; $100,000 for the development of international circulation and $125,000 for distribution.

Claxton foretold an annual tourist income in Canada of $300,000,000, much of which would be due to NFB pictures abroad encouraging visitors to Canada. The minister said the governing board of NFB had not met to discuss a successor to John Grierson, who resigned recently as commissioner.

Warning that the NFB must exercise great care in its production of films, Rev. E. G. Hansell (S.C., MacLeod) declared "it is difficult to say where the line should be drawn between what might constitute government propaganda and what might constitute an educational program.

"I say that when they issue films of a nature to propagandize some particular policy, they are dealing with matters which I do not think are within their functions as a government film board. Institutions such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the National Film Board should come under the closest scrutiny of parliament every year. I would suggest that the appropriate parliamentary committees be set up regularly so that officials could make their annual reports, and so that these reports could be scrutinized from every angle."

Other supporters of NFB were Alistair Stewart (C.C.F., Winnipeg North) and Mrs. Gladys Strum (C.C.F., Qu'Appelle). Opponents were J. M. Macdonnell (P.C., Muskoka-Ontario), H. R. Jackman (P.C., Rosedale), Angus MacInnis (C.C.F., Vancouver East) and W. A. McMaster (P.C., High Park).

"If the Film Board is to become really efficient," said Alistair Stewart, "a great deal will depend upon the number of projectors which are available for groups, clubs and associations. Would it be possible for the Film Board to obtain from the services these projectors which are declared surplus, with a view to selling them to clubs and associations which will use them for the benefit of the people?"

In the year of 1944-45 the Film Board distributed a total of 2,155 prints of films as compared with 715 prints the previous year. Of these 1,642 went to the British Empire this year as compared with 466 last year. A total of 1,108 persons have been employed by the board at various times, and present staff is 787 persons.

Their Majesties See Two MGM Pix

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in London were requested to supply prints of "They Were Expendable" and "Our Vines Have Tender Grapes," to be shown at Sandringham where the British Royal family is assembling for the first time since the war for the Christmas holidays. Present at Sandringham were King George, Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mary, Princess Elizabeth, Princess Margaret Rose, the Duchess of Kent and her three children and others.

Borzage and Wayne On Republic Pic

His second producer-director chore for Republic Studios, Frank Borzage will probably get "That Man Malone" in production soon. John Wayne will be starred, the picture being held up until he finishes his role opposite Claudette Colbert in RKO's "Without Reservations." Borzage's first picture for Republic was "I'll Always Love You," formerly "Concerto."

"Malone" had been announced as Wayne's first job as producer-star at Republic, but he now is in line for another property.

Chevalier Returns, May Make Picture

After a ten-year absence from the United States, Maurice Chevalier, French musical comedy and movie star, is returning to Hollywood early in 1946, Leo Morrison, his agent, announces. Chevalier was charged as a collaborationist by Free French spokesmen, but has since been cleared of the charges. He will do a concert tour out of New York before signing any picture pacts.

Two Atom Bomb Pix Now in Making

A factual story of the atom bomb's development, made with USA government cooperation is planned by Hal Wallis and Joseph Hazen for Paramount. On a recent trip to Washington to arrange various phases of the film they spent a full half-hour with President Truman. The picture will not be solely documentary but will be dramatized entertainment. Metro has announced that Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy are both available for their version of the atomic story.

Huge Hotel Lobby At Paramount

World's largest hotel lobby is being constructed on two sound stages of the Paramount Hollywood lot for a sequence in the new Eddie Bracken starrer "Ladies' Man." Four stories high and several hundred feet long, the scene is background for a dance solo by Johnny Coy.

In the routine the registration desk, davenports, newsstand chairs and luggage rack are all props for the spectacular routine by Coy. Blow-off is a human fly act in which the dancer climbs up the wall in an acrobatic tap finale.

NB Theatre to Run Bowling Alley

Construction of a modern 400-seat theatre is announced for Carelton, NB, with the purchase of a site from M. M. Robert Lefebvre and Clovis Bujold. Size of the building will be 45 feet by 85 feet and it will contain in addition to the theatre, a restaurant, bowling alley and other amusement rooms.

Get in early before the traffic is heavy on

"Scarlet Street"

We think "SCARLET STREET" is one of the finest motion pictures ever made. We, of course, may be slightly prejudiced. So, therefore, please arrange to screen it soon at your nearest exchange

Empire-Universal-Films Limited